

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 02392 291723Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----291725Z 022938 /41
O 291530Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9189

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2392

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, BC, RH
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 296385

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KHAMA
FOR SECRETARY AT 1700 HOURS ON DECEMBER 29:

QUOTE: DEAR DR. KISSINGER:

I AM WRITING IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF 6 DECEMBER 1976
FOR WHICH I THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I HAVE NOTED YOUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE THREATS TO THE
SUCCESS OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. I AM EQUALLY ANXIOUS
THAT EVERYTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO TRY TO SAVE THE CONFER-
ENCE FROM BREAKING DOWN. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT, IN PAR-
TICULAR, THAT THE VARIOUS PARTIES AT THE CONFERENCE
SHOULD REALIZE THAT IF THEY STICK UNCOMPROMISINGLY TO
THEIR VARIOUS POSITIONS THERE WILL BE NO HOPE OF EVER
REACHING AGREEMENT.

AS YOU KNOW, ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE DURING THE CURRENT
RECESS TO TRY TO WORK OUT POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE
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RHODESIA PROBLEM. DURING THESE EFFORTS WE HOPE TO
DISCUSS SUCH ISSUES AS POWER SHARING, MAJORITY RULE,
AND BRITAIN'S RULE DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. WE
SHALL, OF COURSE, DO OUR BEST TO PERSUADE ALL CONCERNED
TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE; AND I
AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE U.S., FOR ITS PART, WILL

CONTINUE TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE RHODESIAN REGIME TO
BE REASONABLE. I HOPE, IN PARTICULAR, THAT MR. SMITH
CAN BE PERSUADED TO DROP HIS INSISTENCE THAT THE PRO-
POSALS HE ANNOUNCED ON 24 SEPTEMBER ARE NOT
NEGOTIABLE.

WITH WARMEST REGARDS, SERETSE M. KHAMA, PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA. UNQUOTE

2. EMBASSY POUCHING ORIGINAL OF LETTER.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS
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Draft Date: 29 DEC 1976
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